I claim:

1. A method of screening a Short Message Service (SMS) or Multimedia Message Service (MMS) call in an SMS or MMS center, comprising the steps of:

responsive to receipt of an SMS or MMS call, determining whether a

5   calling party of said call may attempt to complete said call;

responsive to determining that a caller of said call may attempt to complete said call, determining whether a called party of said call is willing to accept calls from said calling party; and

determining whether said called party has allowed calls having

10   characteristics of said call to be completed to said called party;

wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of determining whether said called party has screened calls from said calling party.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said

15   calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises the steps of:

determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said calling party.

20   3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the steps of:

determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of

25   service of said called party.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party of said call may attempt to complete said call comprises the step of testing for geographic allowability of a call to said called party in accordance with a class of service of said calling party.

30   5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises the steps of:

testing whether said calling party may complete SMS or MMS calls to a roamer; and

if said calling party may not complete SMS or MMS calls to a roamer, determining whether said called party is a roamer and blocking said call if said

5   called party is a roamer.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether a calling party of said call may attempt to complete said call comprises the step of testing whether a destination number of said called party is in a list of numbers to which said calling party may not complete SMS or MMS calls.

10   7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises the step of testing whether said calling party may originate a service type of said call.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls comprises the step of testing whether the

15   keyword, subject, title, or URL of a web page of said SMS or MMS call is on a list of call types which said called party does not wish to receive.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of testing whether the service type of said call is one which said called party is willing

20   to accept.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of testing whether a content classification of said call is one which said called party is willing to accept.

25   11. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of determining whether said call identifies a merchant from which said called party does not wish to receive SMS or MMS calls.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining whether said

30   called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises the step of testing whether a language of said call is one which said called party is willing to accept.

13. In a Short Message Service (SMS) or Multimedia Message Service (MMS) center, apparatus for screening an SMS or MMS call, comprising:

means, responsive to receipt of an SMS or MMS call, for determining whether a calling party of said call may attempt to complete said call; and

5   means, responsive to determining that said calling party may attempt to complete said call, for determining whether a called party of said call is willing to accept calls from said calling party, comprising means for determining whether said called party has allowed calls having characteristics of said call to be completed to said called party;

10   said means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises means for determining whether said called party has screened calls from said calling party.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises:

15   means for determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

means for rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said calling party.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether

20   said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises:

means for determining the number of destinations which said calling party is attempting to reach; and

means for rejecting said call if said number exceeds a limit defined by a class of service of said called party.

25   16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises means for testing for geographic allowability of a call to said called party in accordance with a class of service of said calling party.

17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether

30   said calling party may attempt to complete said call comprises:

means for testing whether said calling party may complete SMS or MMS calls to a roamer; and

means, responsive to determining that said calling party may not complete SMS or MMS calls to a roamer, for determining whether said called party is a roamer and blocking said call if said called party is a roamer.

18. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls comprises means for testing whether the keyword, subject, title, or URL of a web page of said SMS or MMS call is on a list of call types which said called party does not wish to receive.

19. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises means for determining whether said call identifies a merchant from which said called party does not wish to receive SMS or MMS calls.

20. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the means for determining whether said called party is willing to accept calls from said calling party comprises means for testing whether a language of said call is one which said called party is willing to receive.